

I am not done, Senator Withem. We are talking about surface water and ground water. Right now, if you're a surface user, you must get state authorization called an appropriation. This is a vested property right. If you're a ground water user, you merely register a well. You don't need state approval, but it's not a protected property right, so there is no compensation. If you're harmed, the surface water irrigator gets just compensation. If you're harmed as a ground water irrigator, there is no just compensation. When there is a shortage in surface water, they go by the law, first in time, first in right. Tricky little phrase, makes for good conversation. When there is a shortage in ground water irrigators, the pumpers drawing from the same underground surface source, they share and share alike. There is no compensation. Surface water irrigators irrigate about a million acres in Nebraska. Ground water irrigators irrigate seven and a half million acres. Ground water irrigators in this state provide \$2.3 billion to our economy and we're trying to come along and put the quietus on that. Does that make good sense for this body to come along and put a stop, stop signs up to the ground water irrigators in this state? Now, I see that the cattlemen are some of your proponents. I will venture to say there wasn't one cattleman came and testified in favor of this bill. I see the Farm Bureau is on your list of proponents. I will venture to say the only Farm Bureau member that did it was Bryce Neidig because he was on the Water Council. You don't have grass...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time, Senator Dierks, but you are recognized to continue on your on time.

SENATOR DIERKS: You don't have grass-roots people from Nebraska coming in support of this bill. This bill is totally unnecessary. I'm willing to take the time to keep it in front of us for eight hours. That's fair notice to you, Senator Beutler, and I will do the same thing on Select File. We are not going to let this bill go through without the full course of debate, and if you think that that's unfair, think about what we did to Senator Stuhr's bill the other morning in the interest of time. Senator Stuhr's bill is every bit as important to her as this bill is to you, and it's a damn sight more important to me than this bill is to me, I'll tell you that, and I can't...it just staggers my mind that this body can even consider supporting this kind of legislation. It staggers my mind that it got out of committee. It never should have got out of